

AO-87-07



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of Campaign & Political Finance

One Ashburton Place, Boston 02108

727-8352

Dennis J. Duffin
Director

July 20, 1987

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Allen R. Larson, Esquire
Larson & Curry
297 North Street
Hyannis, MA 02601

Dear Mr. Larson:

This is in response to your recent request for an advisory opinion concerning the application of M.G.L.c. 55 to the following, as stated in your letter and a subsequent telephone conversation.

You were recently a candidate for county commissioner in Barnstable County. You state that you are currently in the process of establishing a political digest which will be published by an S Corporation, the Cape Cod Political Digest. You will be the publisher and editor. You state that the publication will charge a subscription fee of \$22.50. It will not accept any corporate advertising. It will be a private for-profit venture. You state that it will contain various political view points and will not endorse any candidate or particular party. Your concern is whether your recent candidacy in Barnstable County conflicts with this contemplated activity.

In response to your specific question, the fact that you are a "candidate", under the campaign finance law and have a political committee on your behalf has little relevance to the issues presented here. As a candidate, however, you must be concerned with whether any receipts or any disbursements made relative to this publication are actually for the purpose of enhancing your candidacy. If that is or becomes the case, those transactions must be received by, expended by and reported by your political committee.

Please feel free to contact this office if you have any further questions.

Very truly yours,

Dennis J. Duffin
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Director